



## Iowa Range

scattered throughout Iowa in suitable habitats

## Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

## water milfoil

*Myriophyllum exalbescens*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering  
plants

## Features

Water milfoil has a long, hollow stem and fine, feather-like leaflets that are usually bright green, curving toward and extending nearly to the leaf tip. The plant is shallowly rooted and easily dislodged. The flowers grow in a spike above the water, but are inconspicuous. The nut-like fruit is only about one-tenth inch long.

## Natural History

Water milfoil grows in streams, ponds, and lakes. It grows entirely under the water's surface and may be found to depths of 10 feet. It flowers July through September. It provides cover for insects that are food for fish. It is rare in the southwestern part of the state and infrequent in the rest of Iowa.

## Habitats

constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; natural lakes and prairie marshes; interior rivers and streams

## Iowa Status

uncommon; native